

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II, REMOVAL ACTION BRANCH  
Initial Pollution Report

**I. HEADING**

Date: October 5, 2004

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Subject: Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site, Residential Cleanup  
South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey

POLREP: 17 (Initial Polrep for RV3)

**II. BACKGROUND**

Site No:	GZ
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS No.:	NJD981557879
NPL Status:	Final NPL
State Notification:	NJDEP and NJDHSS Notified
Action Memo Status (RV3):	Approved on June 28, 2004
Start Date (RV3):	August 12, 2004
Demobe Date:	September 21, 2004
Completion Date:	N/A

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

1. Site Location

The site is located in a mixed industrial, commercial and residential area of South Plainfield, New Jersey and consists of the Hamilton Industrial Park, adjacent contaminated residential and commercial properties and contaminated portions of the Bound Brook downstream of the industrial park.

Residential homes are located on Spicer Avenue and on Hamilton Boulevard within 100 feet of the Site. It is estimated that 540 persons reside within 0.25 miles of the Site. The total population estimated to live within one mile of the Site is 8,700 persons. The removal action was conducted at residential properties located southwest of the industrial park at 126 Spicer Avenue and 123 Delmore Avenue in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

## 2. Description of threat

Cornell-Dubilier Electronics operated at the industrial park from 1936 to 1962 and allegedly disposed of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto site soils. PCBs have been detected in soils and in building interiors at the industrial park, at adjacent residential and commercial properties and in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook.

In response to community concerns about the potential for the migration of contaminants from the industrial park to the surrounding community, EPA collected soil and indoor dust samples from residential properties located near the industrial park between June 1997 and November 1998. PCBs were detected at concentrations up to 22 ppm in soil and 205 ppm in indoor dust. A screening level risk assessment was conducted based on this data. Cancer and non-cancer risks from exposure to PCBs in soil and dust were calculated for each of the properties sampled. The cancer risks for residents of these properties range from  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $7.5 \times 10^{-4}$ . The non-cancer risks for residents of these properties range from a Hazard Index (HI) of 0.23 to 170. Cancer and non-cancer risks associated with exposure to PCB at some of the residential properties sampled exceed Superfund acceptable risk levels specified in Section 300.420(e)(2) of the NCP. A removal action was determined to be necessary to mitigate these risks. Remediation goals for this action were developed in consultation with the Remedial Program and included the removal of soil to reduce the concentration of PCBs at each property to 1 ppm and cleaning of homes where actual or potential health concerns were identified by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

#### IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

##### A. Situation

###### 1. Current Situation

The contaminated soil was removed at the residential properties located at 126 Spicer Avenue and 123 Delmore Avenue in South Plainfield, New Jersey. The majority of the restoration of the affected areas was completed. The above mentioned residential properties will be inspected in the spring of 2005, to determine the scope of revegetation work required to complete restoration.

###### 2. Removal activities

See previous Polreps for Site Stabilization Removal Action (BB1)

On March 29, 1998, EPA initiated the cleaning of the interiors of homes where PCBs were found in dust at levels of potential public health concern. The cleaning was initiated on April 4, 1998, and completed April 26, 1998. Seven homes (Tier 1) were cleaned during the first phase of this work. Removal activities at the remaining six homes were completed in March 2000, after completion of PRP-lead soil removal at these properties. A total of 15 homes were cleaned during the course of this removal action. This removal action was completed March 21, 2000, at a cost of \$243,535.

In June 2000, an Administrative Consent Order (Index Number: CERCLA-02-2000-2005) was issued to DSC of Newark for removal and disposal of PCB contaminated soil from the residential property at 126 Spicer Avenue in South Plainfield, New Jersey. The work required by this order included: delineation of the extent of PCB contamination at this property; excavation, removal and disposal of PCB contaminated soil and restoration of the property to pre-removal conditions. Plans for this work were approved by EPA on November 1, 2000. DSC did not meet the schedule specified in the work plan or properly notify EPA of delay in performance in accordance with the terms of the order. On March 27, 2001, EPA met with representatives of DSC, discussed areas of non-compliance with the order and provided DSC with a schedule of the actions necessary to come into compliance with the order. On May 10, 2001, EPA notified DSC that plans submitted as a follow up to this meeting were deficient and set a schedule for correcting the deficiencies. Revised plans were not provided within the schedule established. DSC has repeatedly failed to perform the work specified in the order promptly and properly. As a result

of this failure, a fund-lead takeover of the work was necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment.

Previous to the fund-lead takeover of the work, DSC completed a work plan and conducted some sampling to delineate the extent of PCB-contamination in soil at 126 Spicer. EPA conducted additional sampling at 126 Spicer Avenue on June 14, 2001, to complete the delineation of PCB contamination at this property.

The fund-lead removal action taking over the soil removal at 126 Spicer Avenue which was started by DSC under an ACO, as well as, a removal at 123 Delmore Avenue, was started by EPA on August 12, 2004. This removal action included conducting a property survey, utility delineation, removing four trees from 126 Spicer Avenue and excavating PCB contaminated soil from both properties and shipping off-site for disposal. The excavation at 123 Delmore Avenue was limited to the area on the north and west sides of the garage to the property boundary. The excavated ground at 123 Delmore Avenue covered an area of approximately 200 square feet and was, after backfilling, covered with stone at the resident's request. The area directly behind (south) of the garage located 126 Spicer Avenue was also covered with stone, after backfilling, at the resident's request. A detailed map depicting the excavated areas and depths at 126 Spicer Avenue can be found in the Site file. The resulting excavations were backfilled with clean backfill. Other than the areas covered with stone, the backfill was then covered with a layer of topsoil and sod was placed as the final covering. Arrangements were made by EPA's ERRS contractor for watering the sod. The ERRS crew demobed from the Site on September 21, 2004

#### **B. Planned Removal Activities**

The majority of the restoration work required on the affected areas was completed. The affected residential properties will be inspected in the spring of 2005, to determine what revegetation work is required to complete restoration.

#### **C. Next steps**

See Planned Removal Activities above.

#### **D. Key Issues**

None.

## V. COST INFORMATION

The following table contains information on estimated costs, including pending costs not yet billed and a deobligation of \$33,000 from this delivery order, for the removal action as of September 22, 2004.

	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>Cost to Date</u>	<u>Remaining Project Funds</u>
ERRS	\$104,600	\$87,325	\$17,275
RST	\$ 25,000	Not available	Not available

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

The table below provides an estimate of the soil shipped for disposal. The table will be adjusted after all executed manifests are received from the landfill with exact weights.

Waste stream	Medium	Quantity	Treatment	Disposal
Non-TSCA Regulated Soil (RV3)	Soil	280 tons	Landfill	Clean Earth of Maryland, Hagerstown, MD